

COMMANDER JAMES D. KNIGHT—WIDOW AND EXECUTRIX OF.

MAY 25, 1860.

Mr. J. M. HARRIS, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Ann Eliza Knight, widow and executrix of Commander James D. Knight, of the United States navy, deceased, beg leave to report:

That it appears from the papers in this case that Commander Knight, in April, 1843, while in command of the United States brig Dolphin, received orders from Commodore Charles Stewart, then at Pensacola, Florida, to the following effect: "You will proceed with all possible despatch to Vera Cruz with Mr. Southall, and place yourself under the direction of the honorable Waddy Thompson, minister of the United States;" and that subsequently the minister, Mr. Thompson, wrote to him to the following effect:

"The first payment under the late convention between the United States and Mexico has been made, and has this day left this city for Vera Cruz; I have, therefore, to request that you will remain at Vera Cruz and transport the money to New Orleans;" and, also, on the 13th of June, to the following effect:

"You will please receive on board your ship Mr. Hargous, or such agent as he may send, with the money received from Mexico, and convey such agent with the money to New Orleans. As to the payment of freight, you must arrange that with the government. I do not think the agent to receive it has any right to pay it, nor that it should be paid out of the 2½ per cent. mentioned in the convention, but by the claimants.

It is further claimed that Commander Knight did receive at Vera Cruz and transport to the United States the said indemnity money, amounting to \$247,000 in specie; and that he subsequently claimed to be allowed by the government a sum of \$2,700 for freight. This claim, it is stated in the petition, was refused by the Treasury Department.

The statements of fact set forth in the petition are not verified by proof; and for this reason, and because the committee are unanimously of opinion that the claim does not properly lie against the government, they report adversely to the claim of the petitioner.

